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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Elephant Butte Irrigation District

Docket No. CD16-17-000

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF A QUALIFYING  
CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY AND SOLICITING COMMENTS AND  
MOTIONS TO INTERVENE

On July 26, 2016, Elephant Butte Irrigation District filed a notice of intent to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, pursuant to section 30 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (HREA). The proposed Drop 8 Facility would have an installed capacity of 40 kilowatts (kW), and would be located at the existing Drop 8 check structure of Elephant Butte Irrigation District's Westside Irrigation Canal. The project would be located near La Mesa in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Applicant Contact: Gary L. Esslinger, Treasurer/Manager, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, 530 S. Melendres, Las Cruces, NM 88005, Phone No. (575) 526-6671.

FERC Contact: Christopher Chaney, Phone No. (202) 502-6778, email: [Christopher.Chaney@ferc.gov](mailto:Christopher.Chaney@ferc.gov).

Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility Description: The proposed project would consist of: (1) a drywell, approximately 23 feet by 13 feet, within the canal's right bank; (2) two new turbine/generating units with a total installed capacity of 40 kW; (3) two 24-inch-diameter, 9-foot-long intake pipes; (4) one 48-inch-diameter, 120-foot-long raceway returning water to the Westside Irrigation Canal; and (5) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an estimated annual generating capacity of 230 megawatt-hours.

A qualifying conduit hydropower facility is one that is determined or deemed to meet all of the criteria shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Criteria for Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility**

<i>Statutory Provision</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Satisfies (Y/N)</i>
FPA 30(a)(3)(A), as amended by HREA	The conduit the facility uses is a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(i), as amended by HREA	The facility is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(ii), as amended by HREA	The facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 megawatts.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(iii), as amended by HREA	On or before August 9, 2013, the facility is not licensed, or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA.	Y

Preliminary Determination: The proposed addition of the hydroelectric project along the existing irrigation canal will not alter its primary purpose. Therefore, based upon the above criteria, Commission staff preliminarily determines that the proposal satisfies the requirements for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, which is not required to be licensed or exempted from licensing.

Comments and Motions to Intervene: Deadline for filing comments contesting whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria is **45 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Deadline for filing motions to intervene is **30 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Anyone may submit comments or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210 and 385.214. Any motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular proceeding.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the "COMMENTS CONTESTING QUALIFICATION FOR A CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE," as applicable; (2) state in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 385.2001

through 385.2005 of the Commission's regulations.<sup>1</sup> All comments contesting Commission staff's preliminary determination that the facility meets the qualifying criteria must set forth their evidentiary basis.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Locations of Notice of Intent: Copies of the notice of intent can be obtained directly from the applicant or such copies can be viewed and reproduced at the Commission in its Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (*i.e.*, CD16-17) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: July 28, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> 18 CFR 385.2001–2005 (2015).

